

DIVING & SNORKELLING



Diving and snorkelling are popular activities for Australians and visitors alike, commonly used to explore and enjoy the remarkable Australian coastline. Diving and snorkelling present some of the best ways to experience Australia's spectacular underwater views and interact with our extraordinary marine life.

Approximately three million Australian adults* (16 years and above) participate in snorkelling and 600,000 participate in scuba diving*. In addition, approximately 700,000 international tourists' snorkel and dive on Australian beaches and offshore reefs (Tourism Research Australia, 2018), although recent tourism trends have been impacted by environmental and global geopolitical challenges (i.e., bushfires, floods and COVID-19 impacts).

As everyday life and travel return to normal, with people out exploring again, the risks associated with aquatic activities may also become more frequent. Unfortunately, being situated in and under the water means that when incidents occur, assistance may either not be obvious or may be some distance away and lives can be lost.

If you find yourself in a situation where you may be faced with having to perform a rescue, take a moment to STOP, LOOK and PLAN:



STOP

- Check the weather. Is it a diving or snorkelling day?
- Observe first, dive or snorkel later.
- Check the conditions:
 - Weather
 - Waves, tides, currents
 - Entry/exit points



LOOK

- Check your gear is in good condition
- Seek advice from locals and regular divers
- Ensure that you always dive or snorkel with a buddy and keep an eye out for each other



PLAN

- Let someone know where you are going and when you will be back
- Have an exit strategy
- Know what to do in an emergency
- Consider how you may access a phone, EPIRB, spot tracker and/or radio in the water
- Remember alcohol, diving and snorkelling don't mix

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

- Dial 000 on your mobile or signal for help (if possible)
- Activate the EPIRB or spot tracker (if possible)
- Stay near your vessel where possible
- If you are swept away from shore or your vessel, don't panic. Stay calm, swim away from dangers, and float

**Data from National Coastal Safety Survey 2023 and is correct as of June 2023*